



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

April 18, 2021

Issue 16

Learning To Trust God

By: Wayne Jackson

In his classic novel, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), author Daniel Defoe has his leading character, Crusoe, cast upon a deserted island off the coast of South America following a violent shipwreck.

For more than 28 years he languished under conditions that most would consider unbearable. On a certain occasion, however, the isolated Englishman reflected upon his circumstances — perhaps more deeply than he ever had. Defoe has Crusoe say:

“I sat down to my meal with thankfulness, and admired the hand of God’s providence which had thus spread my table in the wilderness. I learned to look more on the bright side of my condition, and less on the dark side, and to consider what I had rather than what I wanted. And this at times gave me such secret comforts that I cannot express them. All our discontents about what we want appeared to me to spring from the want of thankfulness for what we have!”

It would scarcely be possible to overstate the concern that Jehovah has for His people. Job once rhetorically asked: “Does he not see my ways, and number all my steps?” (Job 31:4). Or as David expressed it, “You number my wanderings. Put my tears into your bottle; are they not in your book?” (Psa. 56:8).

Another of the Lord’s prophets declared: “For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him” (2 Chron. 16:9).

This does not mean, of course, that the child of God will never suffer deprivation, or pain, or even death. It does signify, however, that the Creator is working in our lives, and no matter what comes our way — even when such appears to be tragic — He still is with us and he helps us work towards an ultimate destiny of glory.

The dull skeptic can never fathom such a wonderful concept; the one who walks by faith happily embraces it. Every child of God should set aside periods of reflection wherein he meditates upon the operations of divine providence in his life. What an amazing comfort it is.

Providence

Providence is a mysterious process; one that clearly is affirmed in scripture (cf. Gen. 45:5, 7-8; 50:20; Ruth 2:3; Est. 4:14). And yet, the steps of providence are not definitively traceable in the particular events of one’s life. In the final analysis, one can only say, “perhaps” this is the operation of God (Phile. 15), though he may devoutly believe it, and thank the Lord for it — even if it has to be through tears.

God’s Providence: An Antidote for Worry

Jesus himself affirmed God’s providential operation in the lives of his people. Reflect upon one of His admonitions in the Sermon on the Mount.

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25, ESV).

The word “anxious” is a term that, in its present grammatical form, suggests the idea of “don’t keep on worrying.” It acknowledges that some “anxiety” is natural to the human mind, and at times, depending upon its object, may even be justified (cf. 2 Cor. 11:28). But the admonition cautions that one must not let his heart become enslaved by such. Rather, greater levels of faith in God will allow the devout soul to be bathed in a sweet confidence that wonderfully assists even in the most rigorous days of human existence.

Life is much more than mere externals, e.g., food and clothing. The Creator has provided us with wondrous bodies and incorruptible souls. Does it not stand to reason that His operations in our lives have a greater goal than the physical aspects? It is an argument from the lesser to the greater. Therefore, trust Him! (Job 13:15).

The Lord proceeded to introduce several supporting arguments, designed to assist the turbulent mind (read the entire segment, Matthew 6:26-33). Let us briefly note the points made by the Savior in the context just cited.

Worry is Illogical

If Jehovah feeds the birds and clothes the lilies of the field, surely he has concern for those made in His very image (Genesis 1:26-27). In another place Christ emphasized this very point. Jesus taught that Jehovah’s interest in even the smallest of His creatures is genuine proof of his concern for those who serve Him.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father: but the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matt. 10:29-31).

Worry is Impractical

Worry is useless for it cannot add to one’s life — either in the quality of that life, or in actual longevity. The truth is, medically speaking, anxiety can precipitate numerous illnesses that shorten one’s physical life. Dr. S. I. McMillen, in his book, *None of These Diseases* (Fleming H. Revell, 1963, Chapter

10) has a most informative discussion of such matters.

Worry is Distrustful

Fretfulness is basically pagan in sentiment. As Christ noted, “for after all these things the Gentiles seek.” “Gentiles” here fundamentally stands for the philosophy of heathenism, i.e., those who have no covenant relationship with the Lord. Materialism is the main thrust of the pagan’s life. Unfortunately, far too many, who profess a relationship with Christ, live like the heathen on a practical level.

Worry is Distracting

Anxiety over material things is a reversal of life’s priorities. God intends more for those made in His image than a mere physical existence. Our earthly sphere is important, but only as an end to a greater goal — the kingdom of heaven. Those who do not recognize this are robbing themselves of life’s greatest treasure. Thus, we are to “seek first” God’s kingdom, and then be confident that He will supply our needs to implement the greater purpose in life.

Worry is futile

One must recognize that all problems do not have to be dealt with instantly, or at the same time. Handle life’s difficulties one day at a time. The mistakes of yesterday are gone; correct them. The problems of tomorrow have not yet arrived; wait for them. Meet the challenges of today. Face the ones that will come tomorrow (and they will come) on tomorrow! Jesus did not promise that there would be no difficulties tomorrow; only this, you don’t have to deal with them until then. Each day has its individual challenge.

Conclusion

These principles are not a magic formula that makes pain and heartaches vanish. If, though, these concepts are absorbed into the “pores” of one’s soul, they can elicit a quality of character that makes human existence much more delightful as we play out earth’s temporary drama.

Crusoe knew it; do we?

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 18, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Lupe Escojido
Offering: Doug Jobs

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Rick Bass
A.M. Closing: Fred Scherffius
P. M. Opening: Mark FitzSimmons
P. M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Doug Jobs
Wed. P.M.: Isaac Jobs

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Will Burleson

Open/Close Building:

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org**

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

If you would like to send Jerry York a card her
address is:

Caring Hands
714 Chukar
Victoria, TX 77905

Her phone number is 361-237-5047

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Richard Hill who had a surgical procedure last week. Bill York's mother, Jerri, who is having trouble breathing.

Happy Birthday: Joseph Sheeran, Nikhil Verma (19); McKinley Jacobs, Anthony Scherffius (20); Nicolette Garcia (21)

Happy Anniversary: Dharmendra & Archana Verma (20)

Upcoming Events:

April 24: Wedding Reception for Anthony and Hailey at 12 noon at the building. A meal will be provided.

April 25-28: Spring Gospel meeting with speaker Justin Guess hosted by Midtown. There are flyers in the hallway.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

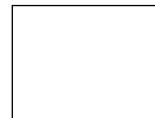
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MidTown Church of Christ
 5901 N. Main
 Victoria, TX 77904
 (361) 573-0030- office
 (361) 484-0284- cell
 midtowncoc2017@gmail.com



MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons
 Ronnie Scherffius
 Ron White

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of April 11, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	52
A.M. Worship.....	77
Sunday Evening Worship.....	53
Wednesday Bible Class.....	44
Offering :	\$3,058

Reading for this week:

“I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:1-3

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
 Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
 Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?
 Email us at midtowncoc2017@gmail.com
 To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox
 or visit www.midtowncoc.org